

Stirling, March 2, 1840.
Dear Mr May:

Your letter of
the 29th of Feb, came to hand
last evening.

I am so moved by your
letter that I cannot help
writing you this morning.

The facts in your letter
are astonishing. What a shame
our disgrace to mankind
our ~~late~~ religion are the
men you mention. They
knew they were on the
side of Slavery; and
believe their consciences
by making the meanest
things of the Anti
Slavery men.

I do hope you will tell
the story in some public
way of the infidelity of

the Unitarian preachers to
their brethren in bonds.

Long before I preached
that sermon I sent you, I
had several hard fights.

At the time I preached
that sermon, I was in
college, the University
of Vermont, yet preached
in the Williston and
Dinwiddie, out for
from Burlington, and
good towns very near.

You must remember
that I studied theology
with one of the men in
Vermont before I went
to college, but after
preaching found that
I was not qualified as
I ought to be, and
so entered college
and graduated in 1857.

I had two or three long fights
with the Abolitionists on
the subject of Slavery. My
opponents in Westminster
and Hunsbury were strong
Anti Slavery ~~men~~ with
few exceptions. I
remember the Sunday
I preached ~~that~~ discourse
in Hunsbury. I had
the O. Method Church,
and it ^{was} well filled
with an intelligent, earnest
audience. Before I ~~got~~^{got}
through, some spoke
out in free meeting
opposite it, others for
it; I said "speak out
gentlemen, but be
assured, I shall utter
all know, and feel
opposite Slavery and
its friends." Some of the
old Whig hunker politicians

tried to smother my youth
and my sentiments. But
I went right on, and the
great majority of the
audience went with me.
I had nearly the same
experience in Millington.

Of course, some left
my meeting, others refused
to pay what they had
signed. Without the
least ~~dash~~ wisdom, as
some of my timid friends
told ^{me}, I told all such
the next Sunday. They
would not relieve
me on this subject -
unless they stopped my
breath, and I knew ~~of~~
men who stood for slavery
would not dare to do
~~that~~. I defied the humpies
of Slavery as I felled them
and so they left me but I
stood my ground for four years.

In 1858 and 59, I preached in
Stowe Vermont. And there
I had a bitter fight with
a nest of Pro Slavery men.
I do wish that the history
of that conflict might be
sent to you. It was
written out in full
by Mrs. George Wilkins,
of Stowe, the wife of an
eminent lawyer, and
forms a item in the
history of the Town.

During these two years
I preached half the time
in Stowe and Williston.
My salary was reduced
to from eight to four
hundred dollars, at one
time to two hundred.
But I raised a small
fund, and raised my
salary on it for I
then had a family, and

Sundays fired my hottest
fires at the men who went
in for slavery.

I had friends in Burlington
H. ~~Albans~~ Albans, Montpelier
who were bound ~~that~~
I should not stand out
or put down.

I knew all about Mr
Garrison, Wendell Phillips,
Merrill Peck, S. J.
May and S. May; ~~that~~ is
I knew such men were
getting a great battle
in Mass, for I there
took the Liberator.

At the time I did not
think I was doing anything
worthy of praise; for soon
my friends called me
fanatic, and ~~that~~ I
never ^{should} get a popular
subject, or take any social

position. I could not then
understand what they meant,
and do not now well,
we are living in a new
time, new issues are
up, but there is the
great, pressing ^{need of} ~~men~~
men, men willing to
take any place where
they can stick to
principles, and defend
them with great
courage and faith.

I am surprised at
the more stupidity of
our Unitarian preachers,
they seem to be blind
to their great opportunity
not ~~in~~ only in regard
to the temperance cause,
but to the work of Christian
culture and growth. The
policy of evolution, ~~is~~ and

the inferior criticism of
the Bill seem to me
unworthy of earnest,
reverent, and able men.
But of the society
and men as I find them and
work on in forth until the
day dawns.

I am very deep in work and
study. We held ^{four} temperance meetings
last with very good success. My
daughter Carrie gave an
essay on temperance two
weeks since in the Town
Hall. It was full of forth,
facts and concepts.

You may return my discourse if
willed. My wife hid away two
copies, and keeps them as if
they were sacred relics.

Now my dear Mr. May with
love to your wife and
daughters, and to you
the servant of truth and freedom
I am truly yours - H. B. Burleigh